

Bill. SWI JWS
Donald E. Proctor
9003 Riverside Dr. E.
Sumner WA 98390
July 27, 2005

Western Washington Municipal SW Comment
Charlene Witzak
WA Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Department of Ecology
Water Quality Program
AUG 01 2005

And

Heather Kibbey
Water Quality Specialist
Pierce County Public Works and Utilities
Environmental Services
9850 64th Street West
University Place, WA 98467-1078

Subject: Draft NPDES Permit for Small Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Systems (MS4's)

I attended the June 23rd workshop at the King Oscar Motel/Conference Room on the above subject. Since that time, I have discussed the meeting and much of the paperwork distributed at the workshop with my fellow Commissioners of Pierce County Drainage District #26.

It is our considered and collective opinion that Pierce County Drainage District # 26 probably does not fall within the defined group that should be covered by the Phase II Municipal Stormwater General Permit. We are, therefore, requesting that you consider our reasoning and let us know whether or not we are within the group that is defined as MS4s.

Our first reason for feeling outside of the permit coverage is that Pierce County Drainage District #26 was not formed to collect and transport stormwater *inflow* or surface water. As we present commissioners understand the history of the District, it's purpose was to relieve high groundwater table elevations throughout the District and did, and still does, accomplish this almost entirely by subsurface drains (i.e. by *infiltration* rather than by direct *inflow* of surface water) that then connect to our main lines via manholes.

We are not aware of any catch basins, open ditches, curb drains, or other surface water collection points that are directly connected to our main lines as would typically be expected in a storm sewer system. There is one stormwater detention pond that had been connected to allow pond overflow to enter one of our mainline manholes after any prolonged period of high rainfall. Since the June 23rd workshop, we have met with the owner of that detention pond and he has agreed to eliminate the direct gravity overflow connection. It is proposed that any pond overflow would pass through a coarse sand bed and be picked up by infiltration into a perforated

pipe encased within a woven nylon mesh "hose" (an infiltration gallery) before entering our District lines.

Essentially then, we don't feel that we are operating a stormwater management system but rather one that manages high groundwater conditions.

An additional reason for feeling that we would not be required to obtain a MS4 permit is based upon the size of our system. The main lines of our drainage system involves only approximately 4300 linear feet of concrete pipe, all 12 inches in diameter or less. The District serves a total area of less than ½ square mile. We do not have a detailed count of all residents of the District but there are only 42 tracts of property in the District (several tracts unoccupied) with certainly less than 5 people per tract as an average or something less than 200 residents.. A commuter population of people who work in the District amounts to less than 100 and they are employed in agricultural occupations and are present only a few days at a time and that only during the summer when infiltration flow is at it's lowest. The discharge from our system does not contribute to any interconnected MS4. Our system has not been identified as a cause of impairment of any water body.

When both the Department of Ecology and Pierce County Public Works has had an opportunity to consider our rationale for exclusion from the MS4 Permit process, please let us know so that we can determine what, if anything, we should be doing in regard to the program.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Donald E. Proctor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donald E. Proctor,
Commissioner, Position #2,
Pierce County Drainage District # 26